

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 6, 2020 REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

The virtual meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President

ROLL CALL: LINDA KIRK, present; KELLY BELIN, present; JOE HARTZELL, PRESENT; KELLY MAXWELL, present; PAULA SHURGOT, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; STEPHEN SHURGOT, present. MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB was also present.

P. SHURGOT/L. KIRK TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. Resolution 2020-5 Penn Dot Winter Traffic Service Agreement for Sprague Street to St. Joseph Drive. This is a 5-year contract that states we will do the salting and plowing of this area and Penn Dot will pay us a minimal fee.

P. SHURGOT/L. KIRK TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-5 FOR THE PENN DOT WINTER TRAFFIC SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR A 5 YEAR CONTRACT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

- B. Resolution 2020-6 to allow Alan Comanici Jr. to purchase 560 Middle Avenue under the 2019 Side Yard and Blighted Structure Program through Allegheny County.

P. SHURGOT: What happens if he does not follow up with the repairs?

G. EVASHAVIK: this would be followed up from the Code Enforcement.

A. HUSSEY: He would have 90 days to start the process. Then follow up inspections to view the progress. His past participation with the Borough speaks volumes, so I do not think we will have a problem.

C. LANG: I agree with Al, the family has several properties and they have been working tirelessly to get all of the properties back up to code.

J. THOMAS: I was reading up about the program and it says they can only do one every three years.

A. HUSSEY: yes, that is because people were purchasing them and doing no work to them just to flip them. They added the stipulation so that these purchasers are actually putting the work into them.

P. SHURGOT/L. KIRK TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-6 FOR THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY 2019 SIDE YARD AND BLIGHTS STRUCTURE PROGRAM. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – L. KIRK: I did not receive a fire report. We did an email vote for \$325.00 to get a Fire Prevention kit to pass out to students in the school district. The principals will give Al the addresses for the students and he will be

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delivering them with Officer Risher. EMS had 36 calls and 24 of them were transports. Their average emergency response time was 8.1 minutes and non-emergency response time was 9.1 minutes. The EMS will be holding their Flu shot clinic in the lower parking lot of the Community Center on October 19th from 10-1.

INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN: for the month of September we had 251 events. There were 4 abandoned vehicle, 6 animal complaints, 2 assaults, 1 burglary, 2 criminal mischief, 5 domestic disputes, 1 DUI, 1 harassment, , 9 local ordinance, 5 motor vehicle crashes, 1 narcotics, 1 suspicious person, 3 thefts, 75 traffic stops, and 3 warrant. There were a total of 15 arrests including 1 Citation for illegally using a business dumpster, 1 criminal mischief, 1 DUI, 2 DUI suspended habitual offender, 2 terroristic threats, 5 warrants other jurisdiction, 2 receiving stolen property, and 1 criminal trespassing.

G. JAKUB: we had spoken about Mr. Kelly being looked at, he is now walking in front of cars and down the middle of the road.

INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN: we spoke with the Department of Aging and they were supposed to have someone go out to do a visit with him.

J. HARTZELL: Public Works has now painted all of the curbs, but I am still seeing people parked on the yellow lines and up on the curbs and nothing is being done about it.

INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN: It has not been brought to my attention until this point, but I will put an email out to my officers.

J. HARTZELL: also, is there anything we can do about people waling in the middle of the street.

G. JAKUB: we already addressed that.

K. MAXWELL: we have talked in the past about cars parking the wrong side of the street and it is still going on.

INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN: I will add that to my email as well and we can start putting warnings on the vehicles again.

K. BELIN: cars are going through the stop sign at Card and Lydia and there are a lot of kids up there. Also, there is a posted tow away sign posted on a wall and I'm not sure if there is anything, we can do about that.

INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN: if it is on his property there is nothing, we can do but we will not enforce it. As for Card and Lydia, I had just mentioned that to my afternoon officers today for them to start watching that.

K. MAXWELL: now that Herman is 15 mph, the PAT busses are still going really fast especially when the busses for the school are there.

P. SHURGOT: Caroline have we ever heard anything about changing the route?

C.LANG: no, we have sent several letters and made several calls. Before COVID-19 I had reached out to the lady that does the routes in our area, but I have not heard back from her. I will try to touch base with them again and see what I can do.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – AL HUSSEY: for the purpose of this meeting everyone can refer to the report they received.

J. HARTZELL: at 450 Caldwell there is a fence in the alley that is falling down.

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P. SHURGOT: on the 200 block of Caldwell there is a piece of furniture on the curb. Just watch to make sure it gets taken. Also, I was surprised when I drove to work one day to see that the fences were gone around 318 Middle.

S. SHURGOT: any updated on the Park House?

A. HUSSEY: yes, it has been sold and we will begin doing inspection on the individual apartments. He will then be starting on the commercial properties.

P. SHURGOT: Caroline and Al please start to work on the Rental Agreements and let the landlords know that they are responsible to let their tenants know when garbage should go out.

K. MAXWELL: between those 2 apartments on Westinghouse there is a fire pit, are they permitted to do that?

A. HUSSEY: I would have to investigate that to see if they are in accordance with the Allegheny County Burn laws.

PUBLIC WORKS – P. SHURGOT: we have to ratify the phone vote to hire Michael Anthony.

P. SHURGOT/K. BELIN TO HIRE MICHAEL ANTHONY AT \$15.00/HR WITH BENEFITS AVAILABLE AFTER 90 DAYS. HE WILL RECEIVE A STIPEND OF \$50.00 PER PAY IF NOT TAKING THE HEALTH BENEFITS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J. THOMAS: I'm sure Caroline has talked to him about this but he will not be taking our health coverage so we will compensate him for not taking those.

P. SHURGOT: so, it is nice having 2 employees and everything is looking very nice. I will be sending Tony to look at the Pat Mews area for a sewer falling in. They have been doing some road patching, they repaired a bench at the Avenue U and Airbrake Avenue parks, and Michael has been learning to use all of the equipment.

C. LANG: Before we permitted him to drive, we did a check on his driving record to ensure there were no issues.

S. SHURGOT: it is very refreshing to see two people work together so well. They seem to get along very well, and you can tell because there is a lot of stuff getting done. Also, Caroline we used to check the driving record of all the employees do we still do that?

C. LANG: when we do our renewals we have to provide our license information.

J. HARTZELL: what happened to the park benches we used to have that were removed from Commerce.

G. JAKUB: we did have some of the pieces, but they were probably thrown out over time. The last one we had was put into the police station.

INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN: yes, and Tony has since rebuilt it for us several time.

P. SHURGOT: we do have that grant out so we will be able to put the old ones around town.

K. BELIN: do we take care of the land at WCC.

C. LANG: we take care of the field and the lower parking lot, that part of the property was not included in the lease because the Borough wanted to retain that area as a rentable space.

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ENGINEER – A. PRINCE: I gave my report in the workshop but will answer any question.

J. HARTZELL: Is a grading permit required when someone digs into a hillside?

A. PRINCE: It all depends on the scope of work. I will check into that.

J. THOMAS: did you get any word about the sanitary sewer in the 300 block of Westinghouse?

A. PRINCE: I spoke with Ted a little, but we are waiting on NVTSA to get the camera work.

COG REPORT – J. HARTZELL: The Vactor program is still up and running. They are continuing the code enforcement software and trying to get that to work correctly. They have been involved with the police regionalization with Braddock, north Braddock, East Pittsburgh, and Rankin. They are still studying that, but Braddock is still undecided. Glass recycling will be at Boyce Park October 24 – 29 from 7am – 7 pm and is free of charge. Amanda is involved with the 25-year transit plan with Port Authority and they submitted the demolition grant to the DCED. They are also working with the land trust on the Churchill Country club.

K. BELIN: we talked about the Main Street grant and had to name a project manager.

J. HARTZELL: I sent a link to the grant and I think it would be something to do with the planning commission.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. MAXWELL: We need to ratify the BC Electric invoice for the lights on the building.

C. LANG: They install all of them today and they are all on sensors.

K. MAXWELL/J. THOMAS TO ACCEPT THE QUOTE FROM B.C ELECTRIC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2000.00 TO REPLACE 9 SPOTLIGHTS AROUND THE BOROUGH BUILDING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

K. MAXWELL: also, the bathroom repairs need completed eventually. I thought I could work with Paula and they can start taking care of that when they have a rain day.

C. LANG: in the past we did get some pricing in the past and I think it was only like \$80.00.

K. MAXWELL: that sounds about right because I believe he said the total cost was under \$250.00 for the entire project. Also, can you put a notice on the electric sign for voting at the Community Center.

G. JAKUB: is there anyway we can provide transportation?

S. SHURGOT: EAPS can provide that.

K. MAXWELL: also, can we post a sign on the front door and post on Social Media?

C. LANG: yes

UTILITIES – J. HARTZELL: I haven't heard back from Duquesne Light regarding the pole and I reached out about the bill that John sent to me.

P. SHURGOT: Do you know what was being done in the park?

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K. MAXWELL: they were replacing a pole across from King's Way.

C.LANG: when the road was being done one of the trucks backed into the pole and it had power to it. They are replacing that pole, the 1st pole at Herman and Commerce and I received a one call for the on Stations Street as well.

J. HARTZELL: I should of knew about this and I'm not informed about what is going on. I need to know all the information. I want you to send me anyone calls dealing with any utilities.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: With the hire of Michael Anthony we will need him to verify that he has health insurance annually. Also, with the Vacant property program, they do screen the applicants, they must be current on all taxes, water, sewage, and garbage on all properties in the county. There cannot be any outstanding code violations or liens outstanding on any properties and they cannot have any other applications for any other programs. The property has to be a vacant lot or abandoned structure with at least 3 years of unpaid taxes. The county will approve an amount of time for the rehab and monitor that, the county will then come an inspect to ensure that it is done. If they do not complete the work than the county can take the property back.

L. KIRK: with Michael do we need that in writing or should he sign something.

G. EVASHAVIK: he should give a copy to keep in his personal file.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS/P. SHURGOT TO PAY APPROVED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 7-0.

J. THOMAS: Real Estate tax we have collected 98.7% of what we budgeted. I have sent the proposed budget for 2021 for your review.

RECREATION – K. BELIN: a few people said, in relation to when the dumpsters were placed, that the newsletters came like 2 days before. Can we print extras and place them around town?

C.LANG: We put them in the post office on the board. They were sent the 1st week of the month so I'm not sure why they are taking so long but I'm having problems as well. I can talk to them at the bank and see if we can post a copy there.

P. SHURGOT: we can always see if they can place it at the WCC.

K. BELIN: Do you send it to the Family Center and the Daycare?

C.LANG: yes, they get a copy as well.

K. MAXWELL: I was told that it was sent to landlords and not the resident.

C.LANG: These early ones only get sent to the resident, the December one will be mailed to both because it will have about the garbage discount. They are addressed to "resident" in case there is a change and I use the rental information that we have to mail them. If the landlord hasn't done an inspection and they are living there illegally then they would not get the newsletter.

K. BELIN: do we have a construction completion like for Commerce?

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A. HUSSEY: the new owner will prepare them and then get them inspected, probably around 60 days. He is not renting to Section 8 and is looking for long term tenants. The commercial units are not ready, they will be done as a commercial buildout, but the apartments will be completed 1st.

J. THOMAS: Will we be doing trick or treat?

K. BELIN: yes, I would like the resident to come outside to do it, but we cannot mandate that. We can do it earlier in the day, I'd like to get a little daylight for the younger kids.

K. BELIN/L. KIRK TO HAVE TRICK OR TREAT ON OCTOBER 31ST FROM 5:30 – 7. MEMBERS VOTTED APPROVAL, 6-1.

S. SHURGOT: there will be a Homecoming parade on Thursday at 5:30. They will be driving around the district in their personal cars and busses.

PLANNING – K. BELIN: I already touched base on that in the previous report.

OLD BUSINESS:

J. THOMAS: The wall on Herman adjacent to the Castle, they are taking care of it now and the stone is laying in the parking lot.

NEW BUSINESS:

S. SHURGOT: can we go back to having packets delivered to us, we can talk about it at workshop.

MAYORS REMARKS – G. JAKUB: nothing

K. MAXWELL MOTION TO ADJOURN 8:34 p.m.